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~~NOFORN~~ 0743
(JAN '68)
~~LIMITED DISTRIBUTION~~PUEBLO INCIDENT

At 23/0300Z the U.S.S. PUEBLO -- a SIGINT shipboard platform, was encountered by one KORCOM S.O. 1 Class submarine chaser at a point 20 nautical miles from the nearest land mass. The KORCOM vessel circled the PUEBLO three times during which the KORCOMS queried nationality and ship type. The KORCOMS then signaled PUEBLO to heave to or be fired on. At 0400, three additional KORCOM P-4 Class patrol boats joined the S.O. 1. At 0416Z two KORCOM MIG fighters were noted circling the PUEBLO. At 0435Z, PUEBLO was fired on and 4 U. S. personnel were wounded, one critically. The PUEBLO was subsequently boarded at 0445Z and forced towards the KORCOM port of Wonsan; when boarded the PUEBLO was 21 N.M. from the nearest KORCOM land mass.

During the encounter, the PUEBLO was in contact with KAMI SEYA. The PUEBLO reported that all key lists were being destroyed but several publications will be compromised. Contact with the PUEBLO was lost at 0545Z when all communications equipment aboard was destroyed.

The PUEBLO offered no resistance and didn't fire her armament. There were 31 Cat III cleared personnel aboard the PUEBLO at the time of the incident.

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